



National Incident Commander
Deepwater Horizon Response

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16451
19 Aug 2010

Bob Dudley
Chief Managing Director
BP Group
501 West Lake Park Boulevard
Houston, TX 77070

Dear Mr. Dudley,

Based on the results of yesterday's Government Scientific Technical Team meeting, you are authorized to proceed with the course of action to replace BOP on Macondo 252 prior to completing the relief well subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Submission to me for my approval of a fishing procedure and a procedure and timeline for BOP replacement. Each procedure should recognize and preserve the forensic and evidentiary value of the BOP and any material removed from the BOP. None of the procedures may be performed prior to my approval.
- (2) No flow of hydrocarbon is detected during the ambient test or the fishing operations and a complete monitoring system is in place.
- (3) The drill pipe and any other material that might interfere with the BOP replacement can be fished out of the well without causing any further damage to the existing plug, hangar or seal. BP will provide a contingency plan demonstrating that the BOP can be replaced without causing additional damage if the fishing operation is unsuccessful.

In the event that any of the above conditions cannot be satisfied, BP will immediately consult with me before proceeding any further. Future directives will address additional issues, including development of a BOP salvage plan and performance of the bottom kill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "T. W. Allen".

T. W. Allen
Admiral, USCG (Ret.)
National Incident Commander